

HOUSE BILL 659

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2003 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates V. Clagett, Bobo, Bronrott, Conway, Dwyer, Franchot, Frush,
Holmes, Leopold, Love, Mandel, McConkey, Moe, Montgomery,
Morhaim, Rudolph, Sophocleus, and Walkup**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2003

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Environment - Task Force on Water Resource Management - Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force on Water Resource Management;
4 providing for the membership of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to
5 appoint the chair of the Task Force; requiring the Task Force to examine certain
6 management, development, conservation, and protection issues relevant to
7 ground and surface water, perform certain assessments, and make certain
8 findings, recommendations, and cost estimates; providing for reimbursement for
9 the expenses of a member of the Task Force; requiring the Department of the
10 Environment, in consultation with certain other State agencies, to staff the Task
11 Force; requiring the Task Force to submit an interim and final report to the
12 Governor and the General Assembly by certain dates; stating the intent of the
13 General Assembly; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
14 relating to the establishment of the Task Force on Water Resource Management.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
16 MARYLAND, That:

17 (a) There is a Task Force on Water Resource Management.

18 (b) The Task Force shall consist of the following 23 members:

19 (1) two members of the House of Delegates appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (2) two members of the Senate of Maryland appointed by the President
22 of the Senate;

23 (3) the Secretary of the Environment or the Secretary's designee;

24 (4) the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Secretary's
25 designee;

26 (5) the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary's designee;

- 1 (6) the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee;
- 2 (7) the Special Secretary of the Office of Smart Growth or the Secretary's
3 designee; and
- 4 (8) 14 members to include representatives of county and municipal
5 governments, environmental interest organizations, the agricultural and business
6 community, research institutions, and other persons from the general public with
7 relevant interest or expertise:
- 8 (i) five of whom shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- 9 (ii) five of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Senate;
10 and
- 11 (iii) four of whom shall be appointed by the Governor.
- 12 (c) The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Task Force.
- 13 (d) The Task Force shall:
- 14 (1) review the latest information from State, local, and federal agencies
15 concerning assessments of the quality and quantity of the management and
16 protection of the State's ground and surface water resources;
- 17 (2) review the results of ongoing scientific research regarding climate
18 change and its regional impacts on aquifer depletion and recharging models;
- 19 (3) review State, local, and federal laws, regulations, and policies related
20 to the management, development, conservation, and protection of ground and surface
21 water resources;
- 22 (4) assess the adequacy of existing governmental resources, regulatory
23 enforcement, and monitoring programs that are available for the management,
24 development, conservation, and protection of the State's ground and surface water
25 resources;
- 26 (5) develop models to assess trends regarding the State's major aquifers;
- 27 (6) recommend additional actions, studies, policies, regulations, or laws
28 necessary to assure that the management and protection of the State's ground and
29 surface water resources are conducted in a manner consistent with the long-term
30 sustainable use and protection of the water resources; and
- 31 (7) provide a cost estimate and funding alternatives for implementation
32 of each recommendation.
- 33 (e) A member of the Task Force:
- 34 (1) may not receive compensation; but

1 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
2 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

3 (f) The Department of the Environment, in consultation with other
4 appropriate State agencies, shall provide staff support for the Task Force.

5 (g) The Task Force shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of
6 the State Government Article, to the General Assembly:

7 (1) an interim report of its activities and recommendations on or before
8 December 31, 2003; and

9 (2) a final report of its findings and recommendations on or before May
10 31, 2004.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
12 General Assembly that the Task Force:

13 (1) consider any findings and recommendations of the Governor's Water
14 Resource Management Advisory Committee established under Executive Order
15 01.01.2002.05; and

16 (2) continue the work of that Advisory Committee.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
18 effect June 1, 2003. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of
19 May 31, 2004, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall
20 be abrogated and of no further force and effect.